

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /027 W

----- 105528

R 101055Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2937

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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FOR EUR/EE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ECEM, YO

SUBJECT: HIGH-LEVEL SLOVENIAN INTEREST IN OBTAINING
US HELP IN ALLEVIATING SHORTAGE OF BORIC PRODUCTS

REF: ZAGREB 0040

1. AT FEBRUARY 7 MEETING OF SLOVENIAN GOVERNMENT LEADERS WITH CONSULAR CORPS OFFICIALS IN LJUBLJANA, PRESIDENT OF THE SLOVENIAN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ANDREJ MARINC AND SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION MARJAN OSOLNIK PRIVATELY RAISED QUESTION OF OBTAINING INCREASED AMOUNTS OF "BORIC PRODUCTS" (B 203) FROM US BORAX AND/OR OTHER US FIRMS FOR SLOVENIAN FIRM "BELINKA," YUGOSLAVIA'S SOLE PRODUCER OF SODIUM PERBORATE (SEE REFTEL). THEY SAID THAT THE DETERGENT PROBLEM WAS ONE OF TWO CONCRETE ISSUES RAISED IN BILATERAL DISCUSSION AT COMMERCE DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING DENT-MARINC LUNCHEON IN WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 12? 1974.

2. THE SLOVENIAN OFFICIALS NOTED APPRECIATIVELY THAT USG HAD ACTED EXPEDITIOUSLY ON OTHER ISSUE THEY HAD RAISED BY ISSUING EXPORT LICENSES FOR PARTS DESTINED TO JOZEF STEFAN INSTITUTE. THEY SAID COMMERCE OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON HAD SAID THEY WOULD "DO THEIR BEST" ON THE DETERGENT PROBLEM. MARINC AND OSOLNIK URGED US TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO SECURE INCREASED SHIPMENTS OF "BORIC
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PRODUCTS" FROM BORAX IN CALIFORNIA TO ASSURE SUFFICIENT YUGOSLAV

PRODUCTION OF DETERGENT.

3. AS STATED IN REFTEL, WE BELIEVE IT HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO MEET THE YUGOSLAV REQUEST. US FIRMS HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR RELIABILITY AS A DEPENDABLE SUPPLIER AND USG CAN AGAIN SHOW ITS CONTINUING HELPFUL ATTITUDE TOWARD YUGOSLAVIA.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF ACTION TAKEN BY COMMERCE AND PROSPECTS FOR MEETING YUGOSLAV REQUEST.
KAISER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUPPLIES, EXPORT LICENSES, DETERGENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ZAGREB00081
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750049-0257
From: ZAGREB
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750255/aaaabxyn.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ZAGREB 0040
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HIGH-LEVEL SLOVENIAN INTEREST IN OBTAINING US HELP IN ALLEVIATING SHORTAGE OF BORIC PRODUCTS
TAGS: BEXP, ECEM, YO, US
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006